

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Noriyuki TAJIMA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned  
Appl. No. : 10/596,193 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
(National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017408)  
Filed : June 2, 2006 Confirmation No. : 3321  
For : HEATING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/017408, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have already been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. HEI 2-120797;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-17221, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-188430, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,625,417 to TERADA et al., which issued on September 23, 2003.
- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-16006, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-91186, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained with respect to the claims of the International application by the International Examiner, are set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further submit the following documents.

- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-319312, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 5 of the specification of the above-captioned application.
- (7) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-267050, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 5 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (8) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0072931 to ASAKURA et al., which was published on April 6, 2006; and

- (9) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0099001 to ASAKURA et al.,  
which was published on May 11, 2006.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent and patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noriyuki TAJIMA et al.



Joshua M. Povsner  
Reg. #42,086

Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

August 21, 2006  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, Virginia 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Application No.  
10/596,193

Group  
Not Yet Assigned

[illegible][illegible]

1	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-017221.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-188430.
3	English Language Abstract of JP 8-016006.
4	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-091186.
5	English Language Abstract of JP 7-319312.
6	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-267050.

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.